

Course Syllabus
Geography of Canadian Prairie Landscapes - GEOG 2900 A01
Department of Environment and Geography
Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources

Instructor: Dr. Janna Wilson

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- Emails must be sent from a U of M account

Office Hours: **Tues./Thurs: 11:00 – 12:30 PM**
Wed. 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Or by appointment; please email

Course Dates: Sept. 10 – Dec. 9, 2015

**Final Voluntary
Withdrawal Date:** **November 18, 2015**

Lecture Slot: Tues/Thurs: 1:00 - 2:15 PM

Lecture Room: 125 St. John's College

Final Exam: no final exam

Course Textbooks: **None required**

Course Description

(Formerly 053.245) Traces the evolution of the cultural landscape of Western Canada including Indian occupancy, environmental perception, urban and rural landscapes, and regional images in art and literature. Prerequisite: a grade of "C" or better in a minimum of three credit hours from Geography courses numbered at the 1000 level, or permission of department head.

Course Objectives

This course is intended to introduce the student to various geographical themes, concepts and processes within the context of the natural and anthropogenic development of the Canadian Prairie region. The course will trace the evolution of the prairie landscape from its natural origins through aboriginal occupation and European agricultural and urban settlement to its present form.

Method of Evaluation

Assignment # 1: Prairie Hazard Briefing note – Due Oct. 1

- 3-4 pages (10%)

Assignment # 2: Prairie Hazard Presentation – Due Oct. 6 & 8

- 15-20 minutes (10%)

Assignment # 3: Seminar Presentation – various dates

- 25-30 minutes (20%)

Assignment # 4: Presentation on Immigrant group to the Canadian Prairies: Oct. 27, 29

- 20 minutes (10%)

Assignment #5: Term Paper Proposal & Annotated Bibliography: Friday, Oct. 23

- 15%

Assignment #6: Term Paper: Friday, Nov. 20, 2015

- 6-8 pages (20)%

Assignment #7: Term Paper Presentation: Dec. 1 & 3

- 15 minutes (5%)

Attendance/participation/preparation: 10%

- Includes article annotations and Additional Attendance/Participation/Preparation considerations as listed

Optional Bonus Assignment: 3 % Due Dec. 3, 2014

Book Review of one of:

- a. "Who has Seen the Wind" by W. O. Mitchell
- b. "Cool Water" by Dianne Warren
- c. "A complicated Kindness" by Miriam Toews
- d. "Settlers of the March" by Frederick Philip Grove
- e. "Fruits of Earth" by Frederick Philip Grove

The Grade distribution for this course is as follows:

A+ = 90-100%
A = 80 – 89%

B+ = 75 – 79%
B = 70 – 74%

C+ = 65 - 69%
C = 60 – 64%

D = 50 – 59%
F = 0 – 49%

GEOG 2900 COURSE APPROACH AND POLICIES

Assignments:

- Assignments are due by 11:59 PM on the due date as either a **hard copy or digital copy (submitted online through UM Learn)**. **A hard copy and digital must be submitted.**
- Extensions without penalty will be granted only if accompanied by a medical certificate. Your medical documentation **MUST** be legible and state that you were **UNABLE** to submit your assignment due to a medical circumstance. A note that you “saw a doctor” is **NOT** considered medical documentation.
- Please note that computer problems are not an acceptable excuse for late assignments.
- Ten percent (10%) a day will be deducted for late assignments, including weekends commencing as soon as the submission deadline has lapsed.
- For example: If a paper is due January 30, it must be submitted at 11:59 PM. If it is submitted after this time (i.e. 12:00 AM), the assignment is late, and 10% will be deducted from the total value of the paper (i.e. 10% from a paper graded out of 100 = 10 marks). A further ten percent (10%) per day will be deducted for each subsequent day the assignment is late
- All assignment must be submitted/completed to pass the course.

Attendance/Participation/Preparation:

- Attendance in class is expected from all students and will count towards the 15% attendance/participation/preparation grade.
- “Minute-Papers” will used to track attendance, comprehension of material, and class progress.
- Each class, students will be assigned a grade out of ten (10) for attendance/participation/preparation using the following criteria: absences, late arrivals, early departures, conduct during class (professionalism, attentiveness, and respectful behaviour), contribution to class and group discussions, completion of assigned tasks and reading material (annotations), effective use of class-time (group activities), quality of annotations, minute papers and additional participation considerations as listed in the lecture.
- Scale

0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Absent/or more than 10-minutes late, or leaving 10-minute early. Not prepared for class. No Article annotation.
↓	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Late arrival or early departure or inattention (i.e. texting, surfing the net, etc.), absent or weak minute paper. No article annotation.▪ Being on time and alert in class, assignments completed, minute paper average. Article annotation complete▪ Above average participation in class, plus being on time and alert, minute paper good. Article annotation complete and well written.
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Excellent participation, assignments completed; minute paper insightful and well articulated; complete, well written, and insightful article annotation.

Grades:

- Students are responsible for ensuring quiz/test /assignment grades have been recorded correctly in *UM Learn*.
- Students have one (1) week after the in-class quiz/test review or assignment return to discuss any grading concerns.
- After this one (1) week period, **NO** changes will be made.

GEOG 2900 COURSE APPROACH AND POLICIES**Course Delivery:**

- Course material will be delivered primarily through lectures, videos, in class discussion and corresponding readings.
- As a courtesy, I will be posting partial course notes (fill in the blank) in PowerPoint format on *UM Learn*. It is your responsibility to access *UM learn* and download these materials:
<https://universityofmanitoba.desire2learn.com/d2l/login>
 - **Please note that I am under no obligation to post my PowerPoint notes; they are intended to assist you and not replace your personal notes.**
- The pace of the lecture is based on the partial course notes.
- For assistance with *UM Learn*:
 - Client Services Help and Solutions Centre (204.474.8600)
 - Email: support@cc.umanitoba.ca
 - 123 Fletcher Argue (Mon to Fri: 8:00 AM. - 8:00 PM)
- Students are **NOT** permitted to partially or entirely photograph, audio, or video record lectures.
- Cell phones: Use respectfully

Communicating with your Instructor:

- **Effective September 1, 2013**, the U of M will only use your university email account for official communications, including messages from your instructors, department or faculty, academic advisors, and other administrative offices. http://umanitoba.ca/registrar/email_policy/
- All communications must be professional and courteous.
- **E-mails** must include:
 - The subject heading (**GEOG 2900**, a salutation (i.e. Dear, Hello, Good Morning . . .), and your full name.
 - Come from a University of Manitoba Account (. . . @myumanitoba.ca).
 - Emails that do not conform to the above will not be returned.
- Allow at least **48 hours** for response (weekdays only).
- Emails requesting notes, information discussed in class or information found in the course syllabus will not be returned.
- Please use cell phones respectfully

Student Responsibilities

Remain available for all classes:

- Vacations (regardless of when or who booked the vacation), tests and assignments from other classes, employment etc. are not acceptable reasons for missing a class or test.

Missed classes:

- It is the student's responsibility to find out what was missed from a **classmate**.

Grades:

- Students are responsible for ensuring assignment grades have been recorded correctly on UM Learn.
- Students have one week after an assignment has been returned in class to discuss any issues with grading such as errors or addition etc.
- After this one-week period, no changes will be made.
- **Final grades** will be posted on the Aurora Student at the University of Manitoba website once they have been approved by the Department of Environment and Geography.

Respectful Work and Learning Environment (RWLE)

RWLE Policy, Section 2.4: The University of Manitoba does not condone behaviour that is likely to undermine the dignity, self-esteem or productivity of any of its members and prohibits any form of discrimination or harassment whether it occurs on University property or in conjunction with University-related activities. Therefore, the University of Manitoba is committed to an inclusive and respectful work and learning environment, free from:

- a. discrimination or harassment as prohibited in the Manitoba Human Rights Code;
- b. sexual harassment; and
- c. personal harassment

RWLE Policy, Section 2.1.4.2: The University does acknowledge the legitimate right and responsibility of academic staff members to correct inappropriate student behaviour, insist on order in the classroom and evict, as necessary, those who disrupt order in the classroom. [See Bylaw: Student Discipline.]

Academic Dishonesty

Students must take responsibility to ensure they understand the University of Manitoba's policy on Academic Integrity (plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation). These policies are available in the University Catalog 2011-2012, General Academic Regulations (Section 8: Academic integrity)

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses – the penalties are severe and range from receiving a grade of zero on an assignment, to academic suspension in which the student is prohibited from registering for courses in a particular department or faculty for a period of up to 5 years.

- Plagiarism is defined as taking someone else's work and representing it as your own. This can take the form of improper citation to copying or purchasing a part of or an entire essay or assignment.

- Cheating on a test or exam includes (but is not limited to): possessing unauthorized material (notes, texts, books, calculators, PDA's (i.e. Palm Pilots) cell phones, or text messaging devices), examination impersonation (this is why you are required to have ID while writing your exam) etc.
- **For more information on Cheating, Plagiarism, and Fraud:**
http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/cheating_plagiarism_fraud.html

Important Dates

September 10: Lectures Begin

October 12: Thanksgiving – NO LECTURES

November 11: Remembrance Day – NO LECTURES

November 18: Last Day for Voluntary Withdrawal

December 9: Last day of Lectures

December 11-23: Final Exam Period

Course Outline

There may be variation in the topics and readings as the course progresses. Readings and topics may be added or deleted from the readings and topics outlined below.

Week 1:

Sept. 10: NO CLASS

Weeks 2, 3, 4

Sept. 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, Oct. 1:

Introduction/review of syllabus and assignments

Introduction and The Physical Landscape

a. Defining Prairie and Landscape

Friesen, G. (2001). Defining the Prairies: or, why the prairies don't exist.

In: R. Wardhaugh (Ed.), *Toward Defining the Prairies: Region, Culture and History* (pp. 13-28). Winnipeg: The University of Manitoba Press

b. Regional Geography

c. Core/Periphery Model

Physical Geography

a. Geology/Topography/Geomorphology

b. Prairie ecology

Additional Attendance/Participation/Preparation considerations (Due Date TBA)

Article annotation of one (1) of the following:

Peltzer, D. A. (2000). Ecology and ecosystem functions of native prairie and tame grasslands in the northern Great Plains. *Prairie Forum*, 25(1), 65-82.

Samson, F.B., Knopf, F.L., & Ostlie, W.R. (2004). Great Plains ecosystems: Past, present, and future. *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, 32(1), 6-15.

Balvanera, P., Pfisterer, A. B., Buchmann, N., He, J.-S., Nakashizuka, T., Raffaelli, D. and Schmid, B. (2006), Quantifying the evidence for biodiversity effects on ecosystem functioning and services. *Ecology Letters*, 9: 1146–1156.
doi: 10.1111/j.1461-0248.2006.00963.x

c. Soils/Climate/vegetation/fauna (available online)

Scott, G. A. J. (1995). Chapter One: Introduction. In *Canada's vegetation: A world perspective* (pp.3-31). Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press.

Scott, G.A.J. (1995). Chapter Five: Prairie (Steppe) In *Canada's vegetation: A world perspective* (pp. 121-156). Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press.

McGinn, S. M. (2010). Weather and climate patterns in Canada's prairie grasslands. *Arthropods of Canadian grasslands*, 1, 105-119.

Sauchyn, D., Kulshreshtha, S., Barrow, E., Blair, D., Byrne, J., Davidson, D., ... & Wheaton, E. (2008). Climate Change Impacts on Canada's Prairie Provinces: A summary of our State of Knowledge. From impacts to adaptation: Canada in a changing climate.

Additional Attendance/Participation/Preparation considerations (Due Date TBA):
Article Annotation:

Anderson, D., and Cerkowniak, D. (2010). Soil Formation in the Canadian Prairie Region. *Prairie Soils and Crop Journal*. 3. pp. 57-64.

d. Writing skills

- Thesis statements
- Credibility of Sources
- Annotated Bibliographies

Thesis Statements: https://www.umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/handouts/thesis_statement.html

Curtin APA referencing guide: <http://libguides.library.curtin.edu.au/c.php?g=202308&p=1332729>

Additional Attendance/Participation/Preparation considerations:
Article Annotation and in class discussion of the Validity of (Date of Discussion TBD)

Macdonald, N. (January 2015). Welcome to Winnipeg, where Canada's racism problem is at its worst. *Maclean's*

e. Presentation skills

****Assignment 1 Due October 1, 2015. ****

Week 5: Student Presentation

October 6 & 8: Prairie Hazard Presentation (15 minutes)

Additional Attendance/Participation/Preparation considerations:
Asking Questions, being attentive, taking notes, contribution to class discussion

Week 6: Introduction to Historical/ Student Seminar

Oct.13: Discussion of the Making of the prairie landscape

Additional Attendance/Participation/Preparation considerations:
Annotation and Discussion:

Lehr, J.C. Everitt, J., and Evans, Simon. (2009). The Making of the Prairie
Landscape *IN* Immigration & Settlement. Marchildon, G.P. (ed.). pp.1-12

Student Seminars

Oct. 15: _____

Additional Attendance/Participation/Preparation considerations:
Asking questions/comments/discussion participation

Week 7: Student Seminars

Oct. 20: _____

Oct. 22: _____

Additional Attendance/Participation/Preparation considerations:
Asking questions/comments/discussion participation

Assignment #5 (Term Paper Proposal & Annotated Bibliography) Due Oct 23

Week 8: Student Presentations

Oct. 27 & 29: Presentation on a Prairie Immigrant Groups (15 minutes)

Additional Attendance/Participation/Preparation considerations:
Asking questions/comments/discussion participation

Week 9: Student Seminars

Nov. 3: _____

Nov. 5: _____

Additional Attendance/Participation/Preparation considerations:
Asking questions/comments/discussion participation

Week 10: Student Seminars

Nov. 10: _____

Nov. 12: _____

Additional Attendance/Participation/Preparation considerations:
prepared for paper discussion, **emailed instructor to arrange time to discuss paper**

Week 11:

Nov. 17: Fracking in the Canadian Prairies Discussion

Additional Attendance/Participation/Preparation considerations: Article Annotation and shows research conducted beyond assigned article through participation in class discussion

Nov 19: NO CLASS

Meet with instructor regarding term papers.

Additional Attendance/Participation/Preparation considerations: Make an appointment via email to discuss term paper. Meeting must be arranged for before Nov. 19, 2015.

****Assignment # 6 Due November 20, 2015****

Week 12:

Nov. 24: Save Our lake Documentary (watch)

Additional Attendance/Participation/Preparation considerations:
Article Annotations on the two following articles:

Schindler, D.W., Hecky, R.E. McCullough, G.K. (2012). The rapid eutrophication of Lake Winnipeg: Greening under global change. *Journal of Great Lakes Research*, 38, 6–13. doi: 10.1016/j.jglr.2012.04.003

Wassenaar, L.I., and Rao, Y.R. (2012). Lake Winnipeg: The forgotten great lake. *Journal of Great Lakes Research*, 38, 1–5. doi: 10.1016/j.jglr.2012.04.004

Nov. 26: Lake Winnipeg Discussion

Additional Attendance/Participation/Preparation considerations: Show, through participation in a class discussion that you have read the assigned articles and conducted research beyond the documentary and two articles listed above.

Week 13

December 1 & 3: Term paper presentations – 15 minutes

Additional Attendance/Participation/Preparation considerations:

Questions, being attentive, taking notes, contribution to class discussion

December 8: TBA